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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,369	12/14/2001	Akira Sawamori	1076.1071	1146

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EXAMINER	
CHAN, EMILY Y	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2829	

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/014,369	SAWAMORI, AKIRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Emily Y. Chan	2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 December 2004 and 17 December 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *5,8,11-14 and 16* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,6,7,9,10 and 15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda Hisashi (JP 10-153631) in view of applicant admitted prior art (Figs 1-2).

Regarding to claim 1, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose a panel inspection device (see Fig. 1) for inspecting a display panel (23), wherein the display panel (23) has a side on which a panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) is arranged, the panel inspection device comprising:

an inspection unit (31a-31e) including an inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e), wherein the inspection unit (31a-31e) causes the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) to contact panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) and moves in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular the side of display panel (23); and

a pressurizing mechanism (See Fig 2, "press means" 37,38,39 and paragraph 0036) for pressing the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) against the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e), wherein the pressurizing mechanism moves independently in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction")

perpendicular to the side of the display panel (23) in a state in which the inspection unit (31a-31e) is arranged at a position where the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) contacts the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e). Moreover, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their pressurizing mechanism includes a pivotally movable pressure lever 37 (see Fig. 2).

Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) do not teach the added feature in amended claim 1 that the pressuring mechanism includes a pair of pivotally movable pressuring levers.

Applicant's admitted prior art (see Figs 1-2) clearly shows that a pressuring mechanism for a conventional penal inspection comprising an upper pressurizing lever 84 and a lower pressurizing lever 85.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631)'s pressurizing mechanism to include a pair of pivotally movable pressurizing levers as disclosed by the admitted prior art instead of one pivotally movable pressurizing lever for the purpose of holding the display panel for inspection because duplication of the pivotally movable pressurizing lever would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04 VI).

2. Regarding to claim 2, the applicant admitted prior art Fig. 11B exclusively shows that an inspection electrode 25a is fastening to "the inspection unit" (54a) in a state inclined toward the display panel (23a) by a predetermined angle (f2).

3. Regarding to clam 3, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) further disclose a positioning device (see Fig .1, 35a-35e) connected to the inspection unit (31a-31e); and a jig (43) for supporting the positioning device (35a-35e), wherein the positioning device (35a-35e) is secured to the jig (43) in correspondence with the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e).

4. Regarding to clam 4, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e) are formed in accordance with the dimension of the display panel (see Fig. 1), the panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e) are spaced from one another by a predetermined pitch (see paragraph 0030), the positioning device (35a-35e) is one of a plurality of positioning devices provided in correspondence with the panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e), and the positioning devices (35a-35e) are secured to the jig (43) spaced from one another by a predetermined pitch (see paragraph 0043).

5. Regarding to clam 6, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their display panel is either one of a first display panel (23) having a first size (see paragraph 0043, "the examined panel 23 expands" and see Fig. 1 "L1") and including a plurality of first panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e) or a second display panel (see paragraph 0043, "the examined panel 23... contract" and see Fig. 1 " L") having a second size differing from the first size and including a plurality of second panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e), and the jig (43) is either one of a first jig (43) adapted to the first display panel (L1) or a second jig (43) adapted to the second display panel (L), the first jig (43) including a plurality of first positioning devices (35a-

35e) prearranged at positions corresponding a the plurality of first panel electrode groups, and the second jig (43) including a plurality of second positioning devices (35a-35e) prearranged at positions corresponding to the second panel electrode groups (electrode groups 25a-25e and see Fig 1 and paragraph 0029-0032).

6. Regarding to clam 7, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) further disclose an adjusting means (guide rails 34a-34e, joint section55 and screw 54) arranged on the positioning device (35a-35e) and finely adjusting the position of the inspection unit (31a-31e) by moving the inspection unit (31a-31e) along the side of the display panel (23) (see Fig. 4, and paragraphs 0034 and 0067).

7 Regarding to claims 9-10, the applicant's admitted prior art Fig. 2 exclusively shows a drive circuit (87), a relay printed circuit (88), a connector (electrical cable joint) connected to the relay printed circuit (88) and to the driver circuit (87), and a passage (86) enabling passage of the relay printed circuit (88) that is formed on one of two pressuring levers (84, 85).

8. Regarding to claim 15, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose a panel inspection device (see Fig. 1) for inspecting a display panel (23), wherein the display panel has a side on which a plurality of panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e) is arranged, the panel inspection device comprising:

A plurality of inspection unit (31a-31e) including an inspection electrode (inspection probes 33a-33e), wherein the inspection unit (31a-31e) causes the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) to contact panel electrode group

(electrode groups 25a-25e) and moves in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular to the side of display panel (23); and

a plurality of pressurizing mechanisms (See Fig 2, "press means" 37,38,39 and paragraph 0036) for pressing the inspection electrodes (inspection probe s 33a-33e) against the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e), wherein the pressurizing mechanism moves independently in a direction (see paragraph 0037,line 3, longitudinal direction") perpendicular to the side of the display panel (23) in a state in which the inspection unit (31a-31e) is arranged at a position where the inspection electrode (inspection probe s 33a-33e) contacts the panel electrode group (electrode groups 25a-25e). Moreover, Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) disclose that their pressurizing mechanisms each include a pivotally movable pressure lever 37 (see Fig. 2).

Fukuda Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631) do not teach the added feature in amended claim 1 that the pressuring mechanisms each includes a pair of pivotally movable pressuring levers.

Applicant's admitted prior art (see Figs 1-2) clearly shows that a pressuring mechanism for a conventional penal inspection comprising an upper pressurizing lever 84 and a lower pressurizing lever 85.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to modify Hisashi et al ('JP 10-153631)'s pressurizing mechanisms so that each pressurizing mechanism includes a pair of pivotally movable pressurizing levers as disclosed by the admitted prior art instead of one pivotally movable pressurizing lever for the purpose of holding the display panel for

inspection because duplication of the pivotally movable pressurizing lever would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04 VI).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 5,8,11-14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 5,8,11-14 are indicated allowable because the claimed features that the jig includes a surplus position device separated from the positioning devices recited in claim 5 and 16, the two pressuring levers move toward the display panel in a first direction that is perpendicular to the one side of the display panel and moves away from the display panel in a second direction that is opposite the first direction recited in claim 8, the pivoting amount adjusting element for the upper pressurizing lever recited in claim 11-12 and the fulcrum block for supporting the two pressurizing levers recited in claims 13-14 are not taught and suggested by the prior art.

Response to Amendment

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Y. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EC

2-7-05

VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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02/16/05